LATVIA, LITHUANIA TO USE OIL DEPOSITS TOGETHER - LATVIAN PRESIDENT

VILNIUS, Jul 07, BNS - If oil deposits are discovered in the disputable border zone of the Baltic Sea, they will be exploited by Latvia and Lithuania together, Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis told reporters Thursday.

The potential oil fields, however, have not been outlined yet, said Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas. In his words, the place has to be investigated thoroughly before tackling the problem of their exploitation. If the border line crosses the territory of oil deposits, the countries could agree on their common exploration and use, said Brazauskas.

Ulmanis underlined that Latvia's cooperation with the U.S.-based AMOCO company regarding opportunities to extract the Baltic Sea oil is still in the stage of a project. Any agreement can take effect only after demarcation of the border, he said. Ulmanis did not rule out that talks with AMOCO could be suspended until demarcation of the border.

LITHUANIAN PM CONGRATULATES GORE ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

VILNIUS, Jul 04, BNS - Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius has congratulated U.S. Vice President Al Gore on the occasion of U.S. Independence Day. In a telegram sent to the vice president on Monday, Slezevicius pointed out that U.S.-Lithuanian relations are developing in the spirit of mutual understanding and good will. The premier thanked the United States for its constant assistance to democratic and economic reforms in Lithuania. He also expressed hope that Lithuania will continue to feel "unselfish support" of the United States in the process of integration into Western structures.

MICROORGANISMS DESTROY OIL POLLUTION

KLAIPEDA, June 7, ELTA - A facility maintained by Naftos Terminalas Ltd. has begun operation in Kiskenai Village near Klaipeda. The facility uses a special bacteria called Degradiol to clean up soil which has been comtaminated by oil pollution. The microrganisms are the product of Biocentras, Ltd., which holds a patent on the process. The polluted soil will be trucked to the processing plant during the winter and treated and returned to its original locations during the summer.